

AMBRIDGE AREA HIGH SCHOOL
Where Learning is an Experience

Silhouette

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Ambridge Area High School

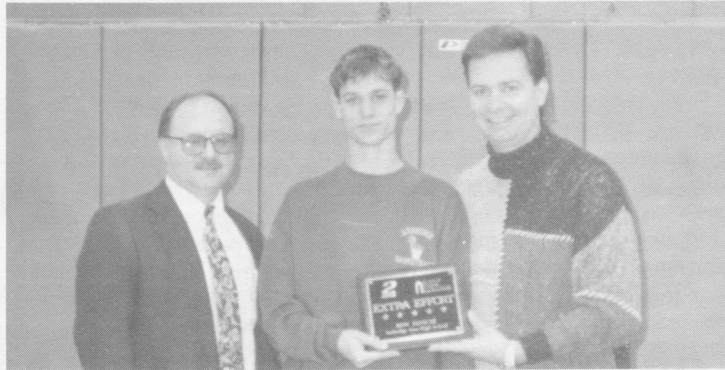
January 1996

Janicki honored as "Extra Effort Award" recipient

by Doug Costa

When the time comes each month to decide which article I would like to write, I am usually faced with quite a decision. However, there are some times when I feel compelled to write a certain article. That was the situation I was in when I heard the *Silhouette* was going to run an article on junior Ron Janicki because he won the KDKA Extra Effort Award. I knew Ron long before he won this award and I, and anyone else who knows him, was probably not surprised to hear that he had won an award, especially one which commends extra effort.

As Bob Pompeani explained, the award, which has been given for 12 years, goes to "the team leaders. You have to play sports, but (you do not have to be the) 35 points per game guy. You have to play; preferably someone who's an impact as a starter. But more than that, (you have to have) at least a 3.5 GPA, you have to be involved in charitable work in your community and you have to have a big endorsement by the



Junior Ron Janicki (center) accepts his award from KDKA Sportscaster, Bob Pompeani (right) and Point Park College Representative, Bob Marcink (left).

Photo by Missy Smoley

superintendent or principal." Mr. Pompeani added that the application Taylor's Milk sent to KDKA on behalf of Ron was "very thorough."

Ron has been playing baseball since he was seven years old, and he has been involved in basketball since he was in the fourth grade. After years of hard work, Ron was rewarded with spots on both the varsity basketball and baseball teams in his sophomore year; and this year, Ron is starting for the rejuvenated Bridger basketball team. In the beginning it was Ron's mom who sparked his interest in athletics. It

has become clear, however, that he took whatever encouragement he received and added his own intensity and desire to it.

After years of playing with (and against) Ron on various teams, it is easy to see that his family has supported him every step of the way. I have yet to see a game that Mr. Janicki did not help coach or bring iced tea to (sometimes still dressed in his work clothes after a long day) and I have also never witnessed a game where Mrs. Janicki was not among the team's most vocal supporters. Ron's grandparents can also be seen offering their support and,

last but certainly not least, his younger brothers Christopher and Brian have been among his most dedicated fans. In fact, when asked to name some of his influences, Ron quickly answered, "My mom and dad would be a definite role model. My parents helped me a lot." He also added that it was his parents who helped him develop his dedication to success in the classroom, as evidenced by his position near the top of his class.

Ron said that the coaches he has played for have all shown him the value of a good work ethic. He used his current basketball coaches as an example, saying "They're constantly doing something, (getting) scouting tapes and they're always working hard. So I want to be like that; not just necessarily with basketball, but with anything in life."

Religion also has a firm place in Ron's mind and in his acceptance speech for this award he made several references to God. Ron said, "In the games I really think everything I do, it's not really just me." He added that

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Honors Chorus performs at public concert

by Erin McBroom

Three students from Ambridge High School were selected to be in Honors Chorus. Dave Syka, Jaclyn Syka and Patty Sutton were chosen to perform with other students from Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties in a public concert on .

Over 400 students auditioned for 80 positions in the

Honors Chorus. The students practiced for more than two weeks prior to their auditions. The members of the chorus practiced together for three days with many weeks of individual practice before this. They were all required to learn their music before they practiced together.

The concert and practices were held at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. The

guest conductor was from Westminster College. Patty was one of the only two people out of the 80 to be chosen to perform a solo in the concert. Mr. Downey, the chorus teacher, stressed that the students practiced on their own for many weeks to prepare for the concert.

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The Year in Review

by Doug Costa

It is January again. There is more snow (and more snow days) this year, and it is a little bit colder than normal. But it is indeed January. It is the season for New Year's resolutions that will be broken in a matter of weeks, and it is certainly a time for looking forward. I, for one, would also like to randomly consider some of the things that happened in the past year.

The year started simply enough, at least for me. I had my wisdom teeth pulled and spent the first two weeks of 1995 eating JELL-O.

The boys' volleyball team won a section championship for

the first time in a long time. And, maybe even more amazing, there were fans watching them do it.

Ambridge boys' basketball is back!

Mr. Roman sadly left us. Then he came back. Oh, wait, there he goes again. No, I'm sorry, he's back. Hold on...

Mr. Mullen joined the administration as an additional vice-principal. He's here to stay (we think).

The federal building was blown up in Oklahoma, and countless people who had never even heard of a militia died. Why?

I learned exactly how cool a band the Rolling Stones are, even if their last good song was

recorded 20 years ago.

It finally seems that the Pirates are staying in Pittsburgh. Don't all three of you Pirate fans out there celebrate at once.

I learned to play "Walk on the Wild Side" on my guitar.

After years of coaching Ambridge's football team, Mr. Antonini stepped down.

O.J. Simpson was proven innocent by a jury, and that is all there is to it.

Newt Gingrich won *Time* magazine's Man of the Year award. Some things never fail to amaze me.

In case you do not read the review page, The Beatles Anthology aired. If anyone would like to talk to me about it, it would sure make my day.

The *Silhouette* has the best cartoonist going (even if it took him two and a half years to draw me in a cartoon).

I saw the symphony. Twice. And, to tell you the truth, I still don't know why.

My friends are all leaving me for their girlfriends.

The fine cinematic piece, *Showgirls*, was released, and I am

old enough to see it if I want to.

Skittles the hamster died.

Harry the dog was born.

I learned how to play "Sweet Jane" on my guitar. I wonder why.

I started to realize exactly how many Hallmark holidays there are.

Americans could soon be fighting a war in a country that does not want them. Haven't we learned anything in the past thirty years?

The boys' soccer team made the WPIAL play-offs.

So many of my neighbors have moved that I barely recognize the neighborhood.

I learned one thing from my summer job: I never plan on entering the grocery business.

The girls' volleyball team won their section again.

There was a new James Bond movie, and although it was not what I expected, it was still James Bond. I just have one question: Why did he have to become SENSITIVE around

Continued on page 8

Misinformation on hockey monies prompts response

Dear Editor,

Hockey is a family sport, not just a team sport!

First, I would like to correct some misinformation about Ambridge Hockey. My name is Lloyd Peterson, Vice President of Ambridge Hockey. Last year, I had 3 players in Ambridge Hockey (one made it to the WPIHL Allstars) this year I have two. Initially a \$200 registration fee is required upon sign up. Which pays for initial ice time. Total season cost is around \$1000 per player which can be paid in installments or paid off through fundraisers or any combination, also all of our coaches work for free.

Another point is our staff has been to school and they are all certified, plus half are currently playing hockey. The board and staff are consistently trying to reduce the overall cost. No player is told to buy new equipment, used equipment is the norm. No student has been turned away due to cost. What five players have quit, we want to know. The fundraising stats and projections are totally wrong. Our players earn 80

to 90 percent on their fundraisers. No one asked the school to take over our program, but a helping hand would be nice.

Beaver, West A, and Moon among others give a grant to their teams once a year. Our organization gives each player a grant of \$100 and sometimes more. Two teachers deserve a tip of the hat. Thank you Mr. Klaich and Mr. Sangermano for your support.

You may not know this, but hockey is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. In 1989 there were 42 schools in the WPIHL, today there are 89. Another point is, AA is the toughest division. In three years we had three players in the top ten in scoring in J.V.: Brian Grinnik, Adam Krehnovi and James Peterson.

In closing, I would like to invite any 4th through 12th grader who would like to play hockey to give me a call at 266-5530. We are recruiting for the 1996-97 season.

Mr. Lloyd Peterson
Vice President Ambridge Hockey

Silhouette

Ambridge Area High School

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The SILHOUETTE is the student newspaper of Ambridge Area High School. It is a laboratory for students pursuing the field of journalism and is designed to serve the total school community.

The SILHOUETTE will be a public forum for the exchange of comment and criticism, open to students, faculty, administration, parents, and others in the school community. The SILHOUETTE is the official school newspaper published once a month at the cost of 25 cents per issue. It is printed by the Record Printing Company of Ambridge.

The editorial opinion is that of the Editorial Board. Any letters to the editor may be submitted to any member of the staff or to the newspaper in Room B-8. Letters received are subject to review by the Board before publication.

Point/Counterpoint

Con--Genetic engineering for a more perfect future

by Mike Cody

No doubt there have been times in your life when you have looked into a mirror and been displeased with the person looking back. Whether your displeasure stems from appearance, intelligence or actions already taken, the same sort of questions always arise. What if you were smarter? Wouldn't you look better with different colored hair or eyes? Would you be a better person then? The logical conclusion is, of course, not only

would you not be a better person, but you would also cease to be yourself. Failure to truly be yourself is a much greater crime than not having the highest intelligence or the best looks.

There are many scientists who are striving to create a different standard, a more perfect future, through genetic engineering. For example, if a family wants their unborn child to have blue eyes and blond hair, scientists are able to make that wish a reality. The possibility of enhanced intelligence also looms

on the horizon.

But how can science help to justify answers to the questions produced by genetic engineering? Is it right for a mother and father to basically say that the way their child really looks is not good enough and to demand something better? Why should one child be given an unfair advantage over others through scientifically refined intelligence? And finally, does the availability of advanced science give ordinary men and women the right to play God?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding no. Although every parent wants his or her child to be perfect, that cannot justify tampering with genetics to create a "dream child." Imagine if your parents had decided to make you into someone different from who you are. The face staring back at you from the mirror with different eyes and hair would simply not be your own. Could you live with yourself knowing that your family felt you were simply imperfect as you really were, so much so that they had to change you?

There are those who would argue that the potential for enhanced intelligence is one solid

argument for continuing these experiments. Scientists could create a future generation that is smarter and more able to solve the problems of today. However, while the act of "improving" the intelligence of the future generations seems to be an exciting possibility, it simply cannot justify the long term implications. Scientists would be taking part in forced evolution of the human race. Such manipulation of the unborn sounds more reminiscent of old science-fiction movies than responsible science. After all, after intelligence has been enhanced, what will scientists seek to "improve" next?

In 1888, author Thomas Henry Huxley wrote "It is an error to imagine that evolution signifies a constant tendency to increased perfection." It seems depressing to think that although humans have made incredible progress, many think that we will be unable to adapt to the future as we are. After all, not everyone will be pretty enough. Or smart enough. Such scientific adaption tell the future generations that it is simply not good enough to be yourself.

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Pro--Opening eyes to modern science

by Katie Madonna

When people hear the words genetic engineering, the first thing that comes to their mind is that modern science is trying to play God. Most people believe that genetic engineers are mad scientists trying to create a master race of fair haired, blue eyed soldiers.

These frightened people tend to forget that genetic engineering is already in effect, and it is changing the lives of thousands.

This medical miracle can save the lives of millions if it is given a chance. Genetic engineering can prevent serious

illnesses such as hemophilia or Down's syndrome by manipulating the genes in their early stages of formation.

If in the future you discovered that your child would definitely inherit a heart defect, wouldn't you want to spare your child the pain and suffering of a life not fully lived? Maybe your child would only live a few years, wouldn't you want to give your child a full life span if possible? Of course you would, and it is possible through the wonders of genetic engineering.

It is time that people open their eyes to modern science and realize that genetic engineering is the wave of the future.

Students learn about frontier life

by Nicole Webb

Let's just pretend for a second that you live in the 19th century. What would your life be like? What hardships would you have to endure? And how would life then differ from life today?

The answers to these and other questions were learned by freshmen and sophomore American Cultures classes, who December 15, had the opportunity to participate in a living history show.

The show was brought to Ambridge Area High School by three people. All three had once been museum curators in a museum that depicted living history. When the museum closed, the trio decided to take their show on the road.

When they are not visiting schools and giving their demonstrations, they reside on a farm in South Dakota. There, they learn first hand of some of the hardships of farm life.

Mr. Gilmore, American Cultures teacher, was pleased with



A member of the Mennonite Society show oxen to high school students.

Photo by Rob Klaich

the show. "I thought it presented a very interesting insight into the social history of frontier life."

One of the things that they shared with students is how little privacy there was back in the 1880's. It was typical for families to share a one room house.

The houses did not have separate bathrooms, and it was acceptable to go in the chamber pot while your family politely turned around. If you were the

youngest in the family then it would be your job each night to empty the chamber pot outside.

That her classes had a chance to learn these little known, but important facts, pleased Mrs. DeBona, who teaches American cultures and physical geography. "I thought it was very educational. It was a shame we didn't have the whole day." She hopes to have them come back next year.

This year students had a

chance to drive oxen and look at a wagon from the 19th century. If Mrs. DeBona has her way and the trio does come back to Ambridge, she hopes that all freshmen and sophomore students will participate. She also hopes to expand the time frame from a class period to the whole school day. The longer time frame will allow students to participate in more frontier life activities like the making of butter.

Even though this year students only had one class period to soak up the knowledge that the three historians had to offer, it was still effective. Sophomore Mike Dwyer said, "It was a good experience to be exposed to the culture of the time."

Much was learned by those students who participated. They gained a deeper understanding of how their ancestors may have lived. They also realized how fortunate they are to have modern conveniences like indoor bathrooms and working plumbing.

Jahoda recipient of "High School Spirit Award"



Photo by Rob Klaich

by Katie Madonna

The Foodland High School Spirit Award was received by senior Bob Jahoda on December 24.

The award is given for dedication, determination and excellence in sports and academics, qualities which Jahoda surely possesses.

Ed Driscoll, Quigley-Ambridge wrestling coach, sent a letter to the Spirit Award Committee stating that Bob was one of the area's top wrestlers. The award has opened the doors to some potential scholarships, and Jahoda was also on KBL and KDKA television December 12, 13 and 16.

Bob views the Ambridge-Quigley merger as a good thing. "It helps out a lot," he stated. He feels that Ambridge is more experienced, but with our team's help, the Quigley leads are "coming along."

Being the only blind wrestler in the WPIAL, not to mention one of the top wrestlers in the WPIAL, is a huge

accomplishment. "It gets me a lot of publicity," he commented. He added that he works harder in school so that he will remain eligible for sports.

Jahoda feels that school spirit is "leadership of your teammates, having your teammates respect you and rally around you."

He is very excited about his recent honor and said that even though he is blind, "I can still go out and compete with sighted kids."

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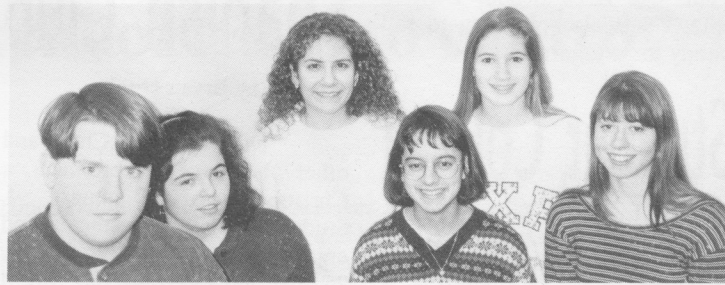
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Band members advance to district competition

by Mike Kristufek

It's once again that time of year when many young musicians from some 53 schools in Beaver, Mercer, Lawrence and Butler counties gather to practice and perform for District Band. This year, Ambridge will be represented by five students. They are as follows: Melissa Andoga, Percussion; Laura McMullen, French Horn; Laurie Miller, Alto Clarinet; Sarajane Adrian, Flute; Dan King, Bassoon; and Cristina Aloe, French Horn.

District Band is being held at Mowhawk High School, in Lawrence county. Most of the students that go stay in the home of a student at Mohawk High



Pictured above are the Ambridge representatives of District Band. From left to right are: Dan King, Christina Aloe, Melissa Andoga, Sarajane Adrian, Laura McMullen, and Laurie Miller

School. They go and practice a variety of music for three days, and on the third day they give a performance. This year it will take place during the second weekend of January, Thursday, January 11 through Saturday, January 13.

District Band has been

taking place annually since the 1920's. Ambridge Band Director Sal Aloe noted that each year, this good experience for the students has forced a positive competition to take place. The students in effect, are challenging each other to do better job and always to try

harder. A sort of camaraderie is formed.

Senior Laura McMullen commented, "District Band is a lot of fun because every year you meet new people who share the same interests. District [Band] gives you an opportunity to play a variety of music and meet many different directors." Mentioning how she was looking forward to it, junior Sarajane Adrian added, "This is my first year. I think it'll be fun."

Those seemed to be the general thoughts of all students going from our school. All seemed pleased that they would be able to play with other young people who enjoy music as they do.

A guide to financial aid

by Laurie Miller

These days the price of post-secondary education seems to be growing at an ever-increasing rate. According to The Student Guide, "Education or training after high school costs more than ever." Unfortunately, for most people that means depending upon student aid to help with the costs.

Many people receive

grants, which are monies that do not have to be paid back. Work study programs may also help. As another choice, loans may also be taken out to finance education after graduation. Surprisingly, over 80 percent of all aid is financed by federal and state programs like the above.

To apply for federal aid, I strongly recommend filing the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid (FAFSA). It is free, and it could greatly reduce your financial burden. Forms are in the guidance office.

Scholarships could provide financial help, too. The best way to find out about them is to contact the guidance office. If guidance has already been tried, the financial aid administrator at the school of one's choice would also be able to tell an applicant

about available campus-based programs and student aid. Companies or labor unions may provide scholarships for employees, members or their children. If a person is a dependent of a veteran, he or she may be eligible for aid. Organizations such as the American Medical Association and the American Bar Association should not be overlooked for aid. A person may also qualify for National Honor Society and National Merit Scholarships. Last, but not least, religious foundations, fraternities or sororities and town clubs like the local American Legion, YMCA, 4-H clubs, Elks, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce and the Girl or Boy Scouts may defray the cost of education. These are just a few of the many available sources for scholarships.

In order to ensure the greatest possibility of receiving a scholarship or any aid, the applicant should carefully read the necessary forms and file them several weeks before the deadline.

For seniors, the pressure is on to apply for scholarships. Do not procrastinate and miss the deadlines. You have a chance to get a quality education. Don't let it pass you by.



The 1995 Mistletoe Ball was held on December 22, 1995, at the Airport Holiday Inn. Members of the Court pictured from left to right are: third runners-up, Nicole Mike and Donnie Despines; fourth runners-up, Melissa Bucuren and Jason Fedash; Queen, Sarah Scherfel; King, Jeff Jeffers; first runners-up, Melissa Lewis and Rob Svitek; second runners-up, Mandi Hryckowian and Mark Moravec; and junior representative, Mandy Battisti and Todd Gnarra.

Photo by Walt Sickles

German Club

by Katie Madonna

The German Club visited the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh on December 11th.

The Christmas party, originally scheduled for December 20th, was changed to January 4th.

The ski trip is on January 26th for all language clubs.

ADAPT

by Carole Bunting

ADAPT is going to present a play on drunk driving. Scripts were handed out to members interested in acting in the play at their January 3 meeting. ADAPT plans to perform the play at

Club Beats Spanish Club

by Bryan Hooks

The Spanish Club and other language clubs had a Christmas party January 4. Students played games and enjoyed refreshments. On January 26, the money from the M&M candy sale will be collected. A date for the ski-trip has been set for January 26.

Student Council

by Laurie Miller

During the month of January, Student Council members volunteered to be present at School Board meetings, a new idea started this year. These members try to become informed about community activities and to give a student's view on important issues.

At the last Student Council meeting, members were also given the opportunity to attend the NASC Area Conference in Baltimore. They also agreed to give 15 percent of the profits from the Talent Show on March 8 toward the school play, "Anything Goes."

get 100 percent membership [from the students]" said sponsor Mrs. Campbell.

DFC

by Melissa Smoley

This month, the Documentary Film Club is concentrating on obtaining basketball footage for a possible basketball highlights film. They will also be working on the video yearbook.

AAC BAND

by Mike Dwyer

The African-American Club will be holding their annual Kwanza festival, the African Christmas celebration, in January. They are always looking for new members. "We hope that we can

by Mike Kristufek

On February 13 there will be a boosters meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The band trip is scheduled for the third week in February.

The heart of Rock and Roll in Cleveland

by Jaime Cole

December 7 was a day of music, history and fun for many Architecture, TSA and Newspaper students along with Mr. Klaich, Mr. DeAngelis and Mr. Hladio. That was the day of the much anticipated Rock and Roll Hall of Fame trip to Cleveland.

When the students finally arrived at the hall of fame, after a nearly two hour long bus ride, they were immediately awestruck by its

unique and stylishly modern architecture. Architect I.M. Pei designed this 50,000 square foot structure containing many priceless time capsules of rock n' roll history. The museum is situated not 50 feet from the shores of Lake Erie, creating a perfect view to look down upon while eating lunch from the skylit cafeteria.

The first things noticed when entering the building are the distinct, vibrant vintage cars suspended from the ceiling, which

instantly set the mood for a day of cool music, interesting history and a whole lot of fun.

The first attraction they saw was a movie on the history of rock n' roll, starting with the folk music of the early 1900's and going up to the ultra-punk Ramones of the 80's and the Seattle grunge revolution of the 90's. While travelling from room to room, floor to floor, everyone there found something that forced them to stop and just stare for at

least a few moments. Whether it was Janis Joplin's famed Porsche, John Lennon's guitar, Jim Morrison's will or the recreation of Pink Floyd's *The Wall*, there was something for everyone.

Many students agree that the trip was very educational, but it was also very fun. Overall, most people feel the day was a great success.

Right Angles

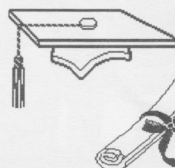
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Bridger Review



Movie Review

by Mike Cody

Four Rooms, the new comedy anthology directed by four of Hollywood's hottest young directors, chronicles the New Year's Eve adventures of Ted, the lone bellboy working at a massive hotel. The teaming of directors Quentin Tarrantino, Robert Rodriguez, Allison Anders and Alexandre Rockwell should have resulted in one of this year's most offbeat and quirky films. However, *Four Rooms* turned out to be incredibly disappointing, filled with intense overacting and offering few thrills.

As Ted, Tim Roth seems to be giving his best impression of Jim Carrey as a bellboy. His performance consists of little more than scared looks and occasional high-pitched shrieks. Ted also seems genuinely perplexed as how to handle a coven of witches, a crazed man holding his wife hostage, two maniacal children and a Hollywood director looking for Ted's help with the ultimate gamble.

There are only two bright spots in the entire film. First is Rodriguez's segment, "The Misbehavers," in which Roth is stuck baby-sitting the children of a Mexican hitman. The second is the end of Tarrantino's piece, "The Man From Hollywood," which features an intense shock that

should jar awake most of the already sleeping viewers. Anders' "The Missing Ingredient" and Rockwell's "The Wrong Man" not only are rather boring, they barely even make sense. The main flaw of "Ingredient" is that its ending is too abrupt, leaving the audience wondering if there is more to the potentially interesting tale of six witches trying to resurrect their imprisoned goddess. I'm not sure how "The Wrong Man" could have been improved. Two days after I saw the film, I was still trying to figure it out.

Four Rooms is an entirely forgettable film that viewers should steer clear of. I can only hope that this flop won't be the "check-out time" for the careers of its four young directors.

★★★★★ Book Review

by Jenni Richards

Although reading probably isn't high on most teenagers' priority lists, anyone who likes alternative music will enjoy *Come As You Are: The Story of Nirvana*. This excellent book by *Rolling Stones* journalist, Michael Azerrad, follows the band from the birth of its members to the height of its stardom and its breakup after the death of its leader, the late, great Kurt Cobain. It includes in-depth interviews with the group on both a personal and professional level, as well as accounts of various

concerts, back-stage stories and an analysis of each of the band's five albums song by song. The book also has tons of pictures, plus the original lyric sheets to some of Nirvana's hits, such as "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and "In Bloom". Anyone who loves Nirvana should definitely read this book.

★★★★★ Restaurant Review

by Peggy Madonna

If you are looking for a place to eat dinner, I highly recommend J.W. Halls located in the Hopewell Shopping Center on Broadhead Road. J.W. Halls is definitely a four-star restaurant to dine in with your family.

Although the menu is not very large, everything on the menu is appetizing. The sandwiches cost around \$5-7 and are quite large. Some of the main entrees include the lobster kettle, scallops and shrimp scampi, all of which cost from \$11-24. Included in the salad bar are some items on the menu and can be ordered a-la-carte for \$5.95.

There is not a long wait to be seated, the service is fast and you are greeted in a friendly manner. The food is expensive, so I suggest going to J.W. Halls for a special occasion or family get-together.

The atmosphere at J.W. Halls is peaceful, quiet and suitable for a nice dinner out with your family.

★★★★★ Video Review

by Mike Kristufek

"We want a shrubbery!"

"What?"

"Nee! Nee! Nee!"

Sound familiar? How

about this:

"Look you stupid bas****, you've got no arms left!"

"Yes I have."

"Look!" (Pointing to the

two arms on the ground)

"Just a flesh wound."

Does that sound familiar?

If so, you have been lucky enough to have seen *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

This movie was strange from the beginning, from the strange subtitles for the introductory credits to the final scene. But I don't want to give too much away; then you won't need to watch it.

This movie was a humorous rendering of a more serious legend. Good King Arthur must assemble knights for his round table at Camelot. God has given them a quest to complete; they must find the Holy Grail. In this search they encounter rude Frenchmen, the dreaded Knights who say "Nee!", a killer rabbit and a perilous bridge. All of these hindrances were not enough to keep the brave party from their goal. But you'll need to watch the movie to see if they get past the final test, though. Don't even think of fast-forwarding, you *will* miss something.

Just watch it! It's a funny movie. The humor requires a certain taste, but it does not take long to acquire. Give it a try. You will either love it or hate it. Now, remember: "Bring out ya dead."

STAR RATING SYSTEM

- ★★★★★ Da Bomb
- ★★★★ Better than a Mentos Commerical
- ★★★ My Mom liked it
- ★ I'd rather do Calculus



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Giving to her community epitomizes Ambridge senior



Photo by Rob Klaich
by Bonnie Marr

Jennifer Haddox of Ambridge Area High School possesses an extraordinary talent--the talent of helping people. This school year alone Jennifer has accumulated approximately 30 hours of community service. Already this high school senior has done more than some people will do in a lifetime.

The majority of her

Janicki "Extra Effort Award"

Continued from front page

his strong belief in God "definitely" extends beyond sports, and it helps him "in school or whatever I'm doing."

Ron's reaction to winning the award was one of happiness mixed with emotion, because he feels that many others are equally deserving. He said, "I know I've worked hard for what I got, but I know that there's a lot of other

community service comes from projects within the Interact Club, but she has also done outside tasks herself. For example, she helped at the Community Center in Economy Village for Operation Pride in tenth grade. Basically what Jennifer did was help with homework or become "buddies" with any child that came. Through Interact she joined Big Brothers and Big Sisters in eleventh grade. Every Tuesday and Thursday she goes to Highland Elementary to help her "little sister" with homework and anything else the child wants to do. Most recently her "little sister" made up a story and told it to Jennifer. Jennifer then wrote it down and made a copy for her little sister to read at the Geriatric Center. She has also taught her little sister all the months of the year.

Also, recently Jennifer has

kids that work as hard, if not harder than I do, so getting singled out is kind of awkward."

Finally, Ron thanked his parents, God, his teachers--past and present, his coaches and the people at Taylor Milk Company who submitted his application. Ron has worked hard to achieve his success, and continued success is sure to be found in his future.

Year in Review

continued from page 2

women, of all things. If I wanted feelings I would have seen *The Bridges of Madison County*.

Saturday Night Live is just not funny anymore.

I like my lunch table.

And I like Twinkies.

I have learned that there are some questions that I just don't have the answers to. And more often than not, these questions come from a girl.

I have a friend that I might

never talk to again, and there is no good reason for that.

I found a store that sells cherry-flavored Squeeze Pops.

From now on, every time I see Tom Hanks I will think of Forrest Gump.

And probably more than anything else I learned throughout the past twelve months: A lot can, and almost certainly will, change in a year.

been reading and recording into a tape recorder a social studies book for a fourth grader with learning disabilities. She also helped with a bake sale to raise funds for accident victim Tony Cocco and his family. In the past she has done such projects as the Special Olympics in Hopewell and the United Way Day of Caring, when she went to the Geriatric Center and the Providence Nursing Home.

She also took part in the Caring For Children Campaign, where she raised money for children without health insurance in the Ambridge area. Then she decorated the library and gazebo for Christmas. Jennifer is also the president of Interact.

Jennifer, in addition to Interact activities, is in ADAPT. She is the vice-president for this club. She has taken part in a

drunk driving skit, the Red Ribbon Campaign, the Great American Smokeout and the Smoke-Free School District campaign.

In recognition of her community service, she received Rotary Student of the Month for November. You would think with all the work she does Jennifer wouldn't have time for school, but she gets straight A's and is third in her class. After high school she will attend Allegheny College in Meadville, where she will major in Political Science. Jennifer is also considering a teaching career. Jennifer closed by saying "my work with Interact is definitely one of the things I will miss the most after graduating, but I plan to continue doing volunteer work at Allegheny College."



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Teacher / Sponsor does it all



Photo by Joe Kulik

by Jaime Cole

I'm sure most of you already know the ever-smiling, always on the go shoulder that so many of her Auxiliary girls cry on; teacher in Room 206. For those of you who don't, she is Mrs. Michelle Hapich.

I'd be willing to bet that

there are probably some guys out there who took her personal computing or computer math courses and fought to be in the front row just to be near her. There is always a steady flow of her male admirers coming in and out of her classroom.

She's always there to listen to the many problems of the girls on those dreaded Auxiliary bus rides, along with catching up on the latest gossip in the school.

Mrs. Hapich is much, much more than a pretty face and a good friend, though. She is an extremely dedicated teacher who works hard and would do anything for a student. This Ambridge High School graduate has been

teaching for five years, the past two as a full-time member of the staff in Ambridge. Currently, she is working at achieving her Master's Degree in Mathematics at Pitt.

"The more involved you are, the easier it is to come to work everyday," Mrs. Hapich stated. And involved she is. With sponsoring the Auxiliary, PRIDE, and Senior Class; chaperoning all the dances; being an active member of the Publicity Committee; tutoring twice a week; and going to classes at Pitt, she rarely has a spare moment. When I asked Mrs. Hapich how she made time for everything she is involved in, she replied with a

laugh, "My house is a pigsty."

"I really enjoyed math and I like working with kids." When asked if there were any regrets she replied, "I don't regret anything. Every decision I've made I'm happy with."

Mrs. Hapich feels that the classes that she took and the teachers that she had at Ambridge really prepared her for college. She said that the school has great classes available and also great teachers. "You get out of it what you put into it."

Mrs. Hapich is definitely an asset to Ambridge Area High School in every aspect. She is a devoted teacher, a caring friend and wonderful person.

Fedash exemplifies true team player

by Melissa Lewis

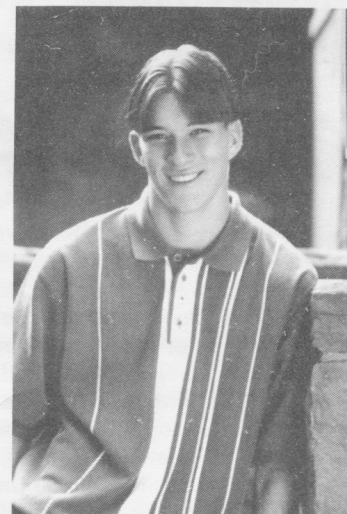
The crowd roars, and the Bridger Brigade chants "Stick! Stick! Stick!" as Ambridge's six foot six power forward and center of attack is introduced to the fans. Because of senior Jason Fedash's extraordinary efforts to help rebuild Ambridge's basketball program, he has been chosen as the *Silhouette's* "Sport Spotlight" for the month of January.

Jason, who has been playing basketball since elementary school, has had a key role in the Bridger's success. As of January 7, the team has an overall record of 10-4 and are 2-3 in section Quad A play. Fedash averages 20 points and 10 rebounds per game, and for this ability, he was named most valuable player of the 1995 C.J. Betters/Center Holiday Classic. At the moment, NCAA Division II schools Slippery Rock

and Allegheny College, and Division III Washington and Jefferson are scouting him.

With all of the media coverage, what does Jason think of his recent success? "It surprised me, really. I didn't think I would be averaging 20 points a game," responded Fedash. He also owes his success to first and foremost his teammates, coaches, and his hard work. Another item to add to Fedash's list of attributes is modesty. Although he is excited for the most part about his media coverage, he is quite unhappy about a recent article entitled "Fabulous Fedash". He feels he shouldn't be singled out, and the media should be more focused on the team as a whole.

Jason also added that he believes the team has a shot at the playoffs this year. In conclusion,



he hopes that the student body will continue to show their support for the team.



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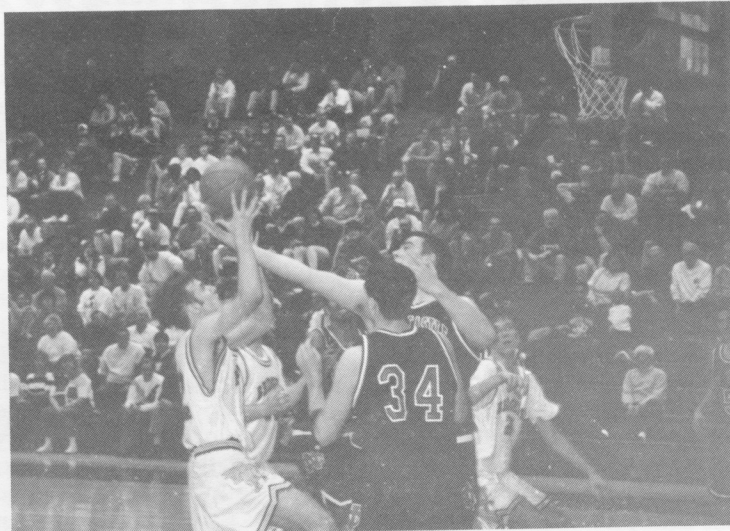
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Boys' basketball off to a great start

by Jeremy Freeman

This season our varsity boys basketball team is off to a great start with a 10-2 record. They opened the season with a second place finish in the Hopewell Kickoff Classic. A string of non-section victories, followed by a surprising 2-1 start in section play has let to a championship in the C.J. Betters/Center Christmas Tournament. Having failed to win more than four games in any of the four previous seasons, this fast start has infused new enthusiasm and excitement into our Bridger basketball program.

First-year coach, Mr. Jeff Meddock, believes, "The reason the team is doing so well is the team's attitude. While there is no real star or team leader, Jason Fedash has been stepping up big time." Senior center Jason Fedash, who is currently featured in our "Sports Spotlight," is the leading scorer in Beaver County



Senior Jeff Jeffers drives to the basket for a jump shot in a loss to New Castle.

Photo by Rob Klaich

and was named MVP in the Center Christmas Tournament. Junior guard Ron Janicki feels that the team has done better than last year because, "There is no ball hogging, and our defense is doing a lot better." Senior guard Matt

Curry, winner of a \$500 academic scholarship at the Center Christmas Tournament, likes the new coaching philosophy. He claims, "The team is working hard and is focused on what the coaching staff is teaching." Both

Janicki and Curry confidently predict, "We will definitely compete with the powerhouses in the WPIAL."

While everyone is excited about this season, the future remains a question. Janicki feels "We will have to work hard in the off-season if we want to do well next year. We are losing a lot of seniors." Janicki and YaVon Leggs are the only underclassmen receiving significant playing time. "Coach Meddock and his assistants, Brian Verrico and Brian Smith, have already been working with the younger ages for the future," says Ron Janicki. According to Coach Meddock, "The team will need to develop over the summer for next season."

The present team has provided us with plenty about which to be excited. Coach Meddock and his staff are also giving us reason to believe that this year's team is the start of a successful program.

Playoffs will make or break Lemieux

by Rich Dugan

Mario Lemieux is on a pace to break Wayne Gretzky's season scoring record of 215 points. He is having a great year, adding to one of the best careers anyone has ever had in NHL history. The Pittsburgh Penguins have the three top scorers in the league with Lemieux, Jarmir Jagr and Ron Francis. They are at the top of the league in goals scored and power play average.

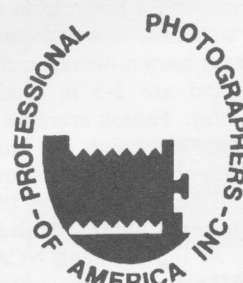
All of these stats are very impressive. They prove that the team was not destroyed during the summer with the trading that took place. However, the power play goals and scoring records are meaningless unless the Pens are playing in June. No matter how many goals they score, their only goal should be Lord Stanley's Cup.

The only way the Penguins can win the Stanley Cup is if Mario Lemieux is healthy enough to lead the way. It doesn't matter how well Jagr, Francis and the rest of the Penguins play, Mario will

decide how far Pittsburgh goes in the upcoming playoffs.

Mario's role on the Penguins is obvious, which brings up the question, "Why is Lemieux playing back-to-back games?" History shows that his back can be reinjured at any time. Add that to his recent bout with Hodgkin's disease, and it puts Lemieux in a precarious position. He is always one shift away from retirement. With that being the case, why does he play in situations where he is tired? If the odds are already against Lemieux, why should he increase them by playing in difficult situations?

The scoring championship record would be a great accomplishment for Lemieux, but if missing the occasional road game would eliminate him from a chance at the record but increase the Pens chances to win a Stanley Cup, so be it. The bottom line is a 1995-96 Stanley Cup championship team is more important than a Lemieux scoring record.



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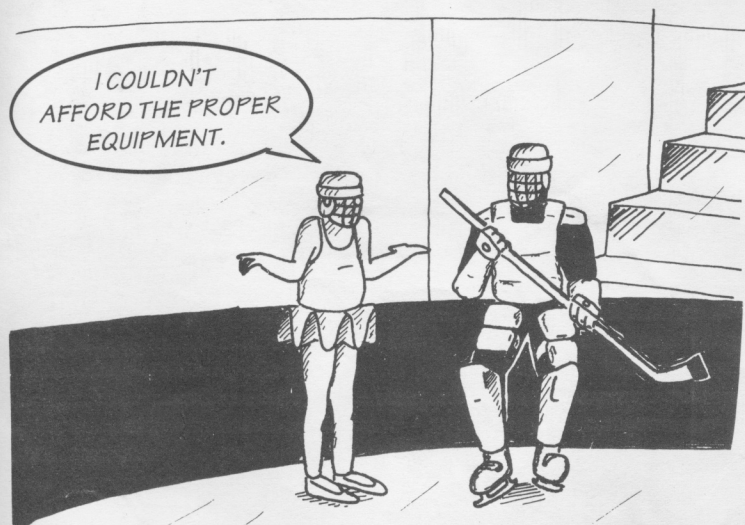
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The price isn't right

by Emily DelGreco

In the past, Ambridge High School students may have been discouraged from playing on the school's hockey team because of the expense. It is true that the team receives no funding at all from the Ambridge Area School District, but if willing to fundraise, a player may not need to supply any personal funds to be on the team.

"It's not that they don't want to help, it's just that their hands are tied," head coach Tony Miller responded when asked why the Ambridge Area Varsity Hockey Team receives no funding from its school district. The three year old team has remained this way and sponsors up to three fundraisers a month to cover costs.

Ice time is the major factor separating hockey from other high school sports. Ambridge does not have an on-campus ice rink. Every hour of team practice is taking place at Bladerunners Ice Complex in Cranberry for a price.

Every team player is assessed four times per season. Each assessment costs from \$150 to \$250. This price includes membership fee in the hockey league and practice time. The 16 varsity players can offset or virtually eliminate this cost by participating in lottery ticket, cookie and candy sales. The team also sponsors a concession stand and sells program advertising

which greatly helps to defer costs.

The overall outlay for this sport depends solely on the player. The product of hours of fundraising efforts and long practice sessions is a completely self-sufficient team with high morale and close ties among its members.

Coach Miller hopes that in the future the team may receive some district assistance in the form of transportation to and from games. However, he does not see the team being totally funded in the future because hockey is not sanctioned by the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League. Adding complete hockey expenses to the already tight district budget would compare to adding the expense of another football team. It is not, and may never be possible.

The hockey team's current record is 1-9. Coach Miller feels that the team "plays well together" and the players "never give up". High scorers on the varsity team are senior Mike Dwyer, junior Josh Miller, and sophomores Adam Krehnovi and Jim Peterson. Members of the team carry the responsibility of dual roles of hockey player and fundraiser with confidence.

It seems as though neither finance nor defeat can keep this team down. Coach Miller related this fact perfectly in saying, "If they've (the team) learned and progressed, then they have won."

Ambridge/Quigely wrestlers remain highly optimistic

by Bryan Hooks

The 1995-96 Ambridge-Quigley wrestling team has had a tough season.

Their team record is 1-5. Rob Mawhinney (5-1) and Bob Jahoda (3-2) feel that this result is due to inexperience on the mat, even though the new wrestlers are willing to work and improve. Unlike last year, this year's wrestling team is a lot bigger. There are 13 weight divisions ranging from the 103 pound weight class to the heavyweight division.

The wrestling team has 10 matches left. The upcoming rivals are Hopewell and Ellwood City. Rob Mawhinney said that the upcoming matches will come as a

surprise to a lot of people. While still practicing six days a week, Rob feels that the team is heading into the easier part of the season. When asked what he thought the team's future would hold, Rob said, "I anticipate the team will definitely start competing and winning."

Steve Smith, Rob Mawhinney and Bob Jahoda are performing well for the wrestling team. Also, Rob feels that freshman Shawn Lyle, is surprising a lot of people. He wrestles with a high level of intensity and gets the job done. Also, junior Jim Hohman has started the year off slow, but Rob looks for him to step up for the rest of the season. Rob Jahoda ended by saying, "For being a young team, I feel this season has gone well."

Lady Bridgers struggle; plagued by injuries

by Mike Dwyer

Although the Ambridge boys' basketball team is enjoying new-found success, the 1995-96 Bridger girls' basketball team is still hoping to get their first win.

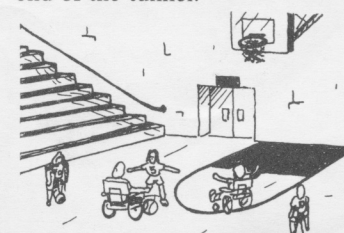
Following a 60-31 defeat at the hands of Seneca Valley, Ambridge had an overall record of 0-7 (0-2 in section play), last place in section 3-Quad A.

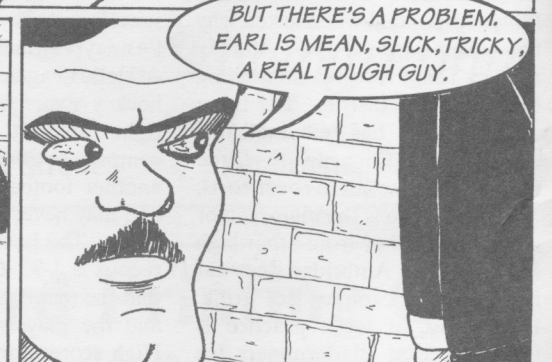
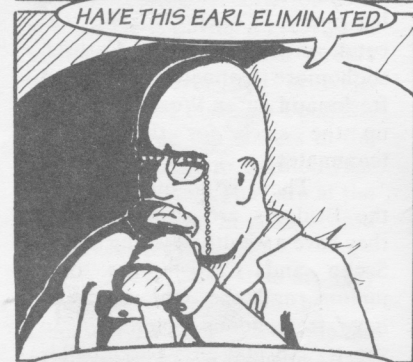
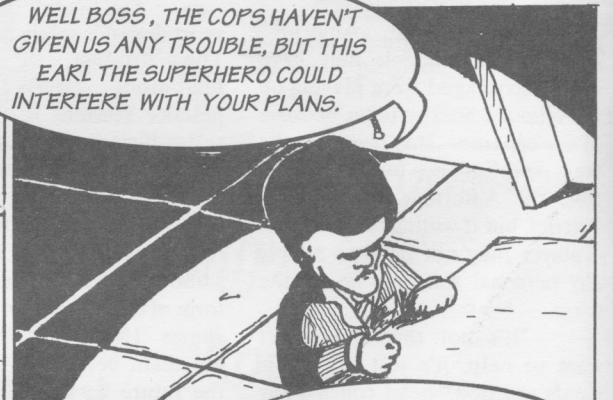
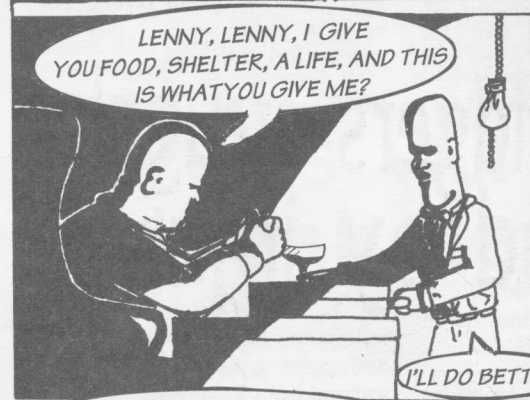
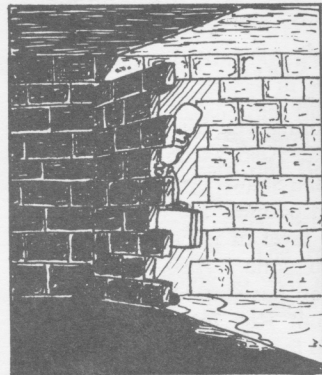
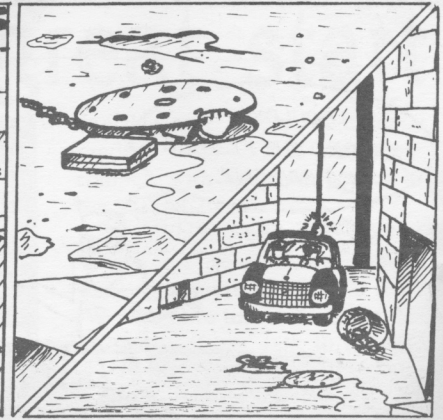
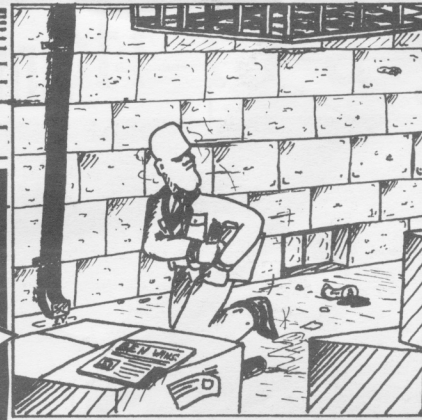
Although the Bridgers haven't had many bright spots this season, one player has stood above all the rest. That player has been junior Stephanie Szabo. Against Shaler this year, Szabo, the Bridgers' leading scorer and rebounder, scored 24 points and snagged eight boards. "Szabo had probably her best game this year [against Shaler]," said Coach Tom Cvitkovic. "She made some nice power moves and scored some big baskets."

Just when it seemed like things couldn't get any worse, they did. Szabo was sidelined

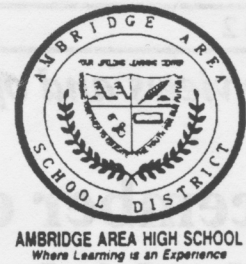
indefinitely with a broken finger, and point guard Tiffany Taylor was put out of commission with a leg injury. Coach Cvitkovic will count on junior Kenisha Carlisle, sophomore Jeannette Guido and freshman Lauren Wozniak to pick up the slack for their fallen teammates.

There is no question that the Bridgers are struggling, but they have a wealth of young talent. Szabo and Carlisle are only juniors, and the underclassmen have tremendous potential. In short, Ambridge girls' basketball is enduring some dark times, but at least they can see the light at the end of the tunnel.





Silhouette



Vol. 70

No. 4-A

Ambridge Area High School

January Supplement

DECA students participate at local district competition

by Jaime Cole

Recently, seven students represented the Ambridge chapter of DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) at a district competition, which was held at the Airport Holiday Inn on January 10. The contest gave students throughout the district a chance to display their knowledge in fields ranging from Quick Serve to Finance and Credit.

Each student was entered in a competitive event dealing with general marketing and retailing knowledge. They were required to take a competency test, specialized field tests and to go on interviews conducted by various business people.

The day was not all work, though. A dance was held for the contestants after the tests, and there was also a refreshment area available. After the interviewing scores were calculated a formal sit-down dinner was held at which the awards were presented.

The winners from Ambridge were: Jason Guido, fifth place in Apparels and Accessory;

Kelly Lucaric, fifth place in Full Serve; Rich Dugan, second place in Materials and Handling and Jennifer Hoover, fourth place in Finance and Credit. The other Ambridge Students that attended were: Nicole Kratochvil, Quick Serve; Justin Steele, Materials and Handling and Jessica Butcher, Hospitality and Tourism..

Miss Barlamas, DECA sponsor, stated, "DECA teaches them [students] leadership...etiquette. It's a valued asset for the students." When asked why she sponsored the club, she stated, "I enjoy working with the kids. It makes me proud to see them being proud of themselves."



Band performs at AFC Championship game

by Mike Cody

On Sunday, January 14, the Ambridge Area High School Band took part in an important part of Pittsburgh history by performing at the American Football Conference Championship game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Indianapolis Colts. The band entertained the massive crowd of 61,062 fans at Three Rivers Stadium both before the game and during the half time show. Fleeting glimpses of band members were caught by television cameras and broadcast on national television during several plays and at half time.

When band members were asked how they enjoyed their day at Three Rivers, descriptions varied from "incredible" to "miserable." But at some point, everyone was caught up in the spirit of the game. Jaime Cole, junior, said that "It was more fun than last year because of the weather. I'm not the most avid Steeler fan, but it was great to see how much spirit everybody had."

Armed with Terrible Towels, purchased with money from the band's funds, the Ambridge band tried their best to show their Steeler pride, though at times it seemed like they couldn't compete with the majority of fans who packed Three Rivers Stadium. Senior Mike Kristufek seemed almost in awe as he described how he "looked up to see a wave of Terrible Towels." Of course, simply being so close to the Steelers was enough to excite many. "It was surrealistic to see so many people in person whom I only see on T.V." said Kathleen Madonna, junior.

Ambridge Area High's band will probably return to Three Rivers next year if the Steelers make the playoffs. The band's relationship with the Steelers began several years ago when they performed a Civil War themed show during a game. The show impressed Steelers' owner Dan Rooney, who has invited the band back every year during playoff season. And as usual, Ambridge Area High's band lives up to its reputation as a great band.

Your views and opinions

December editorial on Outcome Based Education at the high school leads to controversy

Dear Editor,

As members of the Home Economics/Family and Consumer Sciences department we feel a professional obligation to respond to your article "O.B.E.—A change for the better?" by Emily DelGreco. Some statements were misleading, and some were false.

The faculty and administration of the Ambridge Area School District has been working hard to establish a curriculum that will allow the students to choose courses that interest them as well as meet the state requirements. These state requirements include portfolios and Home Economics/Family & Consumer Science, two of the topics Emily Delgreco chose to mention.

Perhaps more information will help clarify this misunderstanding. Home Economics/Family and Consumer Science (HE/FCS) is not just cooking and sewing. It has been and always will be much more. As for the required course, it will not require additional funds for "specialized materials and supplies" as stated in the article. No additional staff will be required nor will the classes be overcrowded. This course will stress life skills such as parenting, child care, selecting a day care center, managing money credit and banking skills and many more that will benefit ALL students. This required course will take one semester of the student's time and will fulfill two required state outcomes. Elective courses will still be offered to those students who choose to continue their skills learned at the junior high.

We took special exception to the cartoon depicting HE/FCS as a waste of time. Since when is teaching life skills a waste of time? We also believe that although life skills are taught at home there is still much that can be learned and reinforced in the school.

In the future Miss DelGreco should be more responsible and get the facts before writing such an article.

HE/FCS Department: M. Smolnery, Chairmen

P. Molchen

K. Higginbotham

I. Finn

Dear Editor,

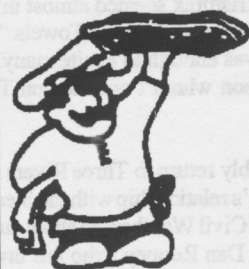
As a teacher on the Portfolio Subcommittee, I was surprised and disappointed to read in December's editorial entitled *O.B.E.—A Change for the Better?* that Ms. DelGreco believes that "the job of the portfolio monitor is unclear to the student as well as the monitor." Additionally, she states that "Because of a lack of knowledge, monitors are forced to incorporate their own tactics in dealing with their assigned students. How are students supposed to obtain any benefit from such a vague program?" Please try to understand that our portfolio plan is anything but "vague." In fact, our plan is quite specific.

Groups of educators in the Ambridge Area School District who sat on the District-Wide Curriculum Council in May, 1994, conscientiously began the planning portfolio subcommittee to design the best possible portfolio plan for our ninth graders. Collectively, we agreed upon a monitoring system so that each ninth grader would have individual attention paid to his work by his portfolio monitor. Much thought and discussion occurred between and among staff members. Many hours of planning were invested. The members of the Portfolio Subcommittee are all part of a conscientious team who honestly want to deliver the best and most educationally-sound program for our students as is humanly possible.

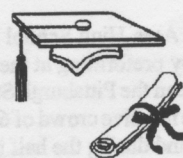
If, at times, what we deliver seems to be "vague" and "unclear," it is because we are constantly in the process of refining and revising best teaching practices. What might seem "vague" and "unclear" can become crystal clear if our students positively contribute to the process and put forth their best effort in creating quality portfolios. Therefore, as a group of educators who care about your education, we ask that you join forces with us and share some of the responsibility for learning.

Mrs. Linda T. Whitford

Ambridge Area Staff Development Assistant



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